

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042997

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-07 ADP-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/ CAR: WPKELLY: JANET

APPROVED BY: ARA/ CAR: JRBURKE

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R 082200 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

S E C R E T STATE 042997

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR GY UN PN

SUBJ: PANAMA SC MEETING

FOL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC MARCH 6, 1973 FROM GEORGETOWN
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE QUOTE

S E C R E T GEORGETOWN 0330

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR GY UN PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA SC MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 039090 (B) PANAMA 1036

1. AS REQUESTED BY FORMER ASST SEC MEYER IN REFTEL, I HAD ONE
MORE GO AT FONMIN S. S. RAMPHAL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON ON SUBJECT
HIS ATTENDANCE AT PANAMA SEC MEETING. I TALKED TO HIM BLUNTLY,
GIVING HIM FULL FLAVOR AND DETAILS OF REFTEL WHILE STRESSING
THAT THESE VIEWS CAME FROM SOMEONE WHO HAD LONG CONSIDERED
HIMSELF BE PERSONAL FRIEND AND WHO HAD SHOWN CONSIDERABLE
SYMPATHY FOR AND UNDERSTANDING OF GUYANA' S PROBLEMS AND
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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 042997

ASPIRATIONS OVER THE YEARS. BELIEVE RAMPHAL WAS A BIT SHOCKED. CONCEDED US POSITION " VERY STRONG" AND APPEARED WORRIED. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE HE REITERATED THAT WOULD NOT GO TO PANAMA IF NO OTHER LA FONMINS DID SO AND THAT WOULD TRY RETAIN APPEARANCE OF FLEXIBILITY AS LONG AS POSSIBLE TO SEE WHAT OTHERS MIGHT DO, SAID IT WAS TOO LATE FOR GOG TO REVERSE ITSELF. WHEN HIS ATTENDANCE DISCUSSED AT CABINET LAST WEEK ONLY HE HAD EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS (BY SETTING FORTH US VIEWS). ANY EFFORT CHANGE DECISION AT THIS LATE DATE WLD HAVE INTERNAL AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS.

2. RAMPHAL ASSERTED HE HAD NOT TOLD PANAMANIAN REPRESENTATIVE DEAN BUTCHER THAT HE DEFINITELY WOULD ATTEND SC MEETING. RATHER HAD SAID THIS PROBABLE BUT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION WHEN HE HEARD FROM PANAMANIAN FONMIN TACK EXACTLY WHO ELSE WAS DEFINITELY GOING. UP TO NOW HE HAS NOT HEARD ANYTHING MORE.

3. RAMPHAL' S POSITION AT THIS POINT IN TIME, AND THAT OF BURNHAM AND GOG FOR THAT MATTER, UNDOUBTEDLY COLORED BY FOLLOWING MISCELLANY WHICH HE PASSED ON TO ME:

A) CUBA' S UN PERMREP TOLD RASHLEIGH JACKSON, GUYANA' S UN REP, THAT FONMIN ROA HAD NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND WHETHER TO GO TO PANAMA. NEVERTHELESS, ROA ASKED RAMPHAL BE INFORMED THAT HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO A CHANCE FOR BILATERAL TALKS SHOULD THEIR PATHS CROSS IN PANAMA. (RAMPHAL READ ME JACKSON' S LETTER STATING THIS.)

B) JAMAICA' S MINISTER OF STATE DUDLEY THOMPSON CALLED RAMPHAL OVER WEEKEND TO COMPARE NOTES ON PLANS. INDICATED HE HAD BEEN CONVINCED HE SHOULD GO BY BUTCHER AND YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR MOJSOV, ALTHOUGH HAD NOT YET CHECKED IT OUT WITH PRIME MINISTER MANELY. WHEN RAMPHAL TOLD THOMPSON HE PROBABLY WOULD ATTEND LATTER SAID " FINE-- WHY DON' T YOU ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE BOTH GOING." RAMPHAL TOLD ME HE DEMURRED ON EXCUSE GOG' S DECISION NOT YET FINAL.

C) GUYANA' S AMBASSADOR IN CARACAS REPORTED THAT PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR THERE HAD TOLD HIM FONMINS OF COLOMBIA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA WOULD DEFINITELY ATTEND SC MEETING. (NOTE SIMILARITY TO WHAT
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PAGE 03 STATE 042997

MOJSOV TOLD RAMPHAL.) ALSO REPORTED THAT VENEZUELA'S CALVANI PROBABLY WOULD GO TOO.

D) RAMPHAL HAS ENGLISH TEXT OF PROPOSED SC RESOLUTION DRAFTED BY MEXICO (ROBLES) WHICH APPARENTLY BEING CIRCULATED THROUGH HEMISPHERE. I HAD CHANCE ONLY GLANCE AT IT, BUT IT SEEMED RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS AND DID NOT EXPLICITLY MENTION CANAL OR US- PANAMANIAN BILATERAL PROBLEMS. RAMPHAL INCLINED USE THIS TO SUPPORT CONTENTION THAT NO BIG THING WOULD BE MADE OF CANAL ISSUE DURING SC MEETING AND THAT US PERHAPS OVERLY SENSITIVE TO POTENTIAL FOR ANTI- US ATTACKS, WHICH ON BASIS MOJSOV'S ASS-

URANCES HE DID NOT EXPECT. (I POINTED OUT CANAL ISSUE WAS CONTINUING ONE AND THAT PANAMA SEEMED BE LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR FOLLOW- UP ANTI- US MANEUVERS, DRAWING ON REF B.)

E) RAMPHAL EXPECTS FUTURE OF BELIZE TO COME UNDER DISCUSSION. CALVANI WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SUPPORT GUATEMALA, MAKING IT IMPERATIVE THAT HE BE THERE TO COUNTER ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT BE SAID BEARING ON GUYANA - VENEZUELA BORDER DISPUTE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE WILL TAKE OCCASION DEPLORE GUYANA'S CONTINUED EXCLUSION FROM REGIONAL MECHANISMS SUCH AS IBD, DENUCLEARIZATION TREATY AND CECLA (HE SAID GUYANA NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN OAS ITSELF AT THIS TIME).

4. COMMENT: AS FORESEEN BY MR. MEYER, IT IS PROBABLE THAT GOG WILL STICK BY DECISION BE REPRESENTED AT PANAMA AT FONMIN LEVEL UNLESS NO OTHER LA FONMINS ATTEND. NEVERTHELESS, EXERCISE MAY HAVE BEEN USEFUL FOR THE FUTURE IN A GENERAL SENSE IN THAT IT IMPRESSED ON RAMPHAL OUR ACUTE AWARENESS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NOTABLE LACK OF COOPERATION WITH US ON THE PART OF GUYANA OF LATE. HE CAN BE EXPECTED PASS THIS ON TO BURNHAM AND OTHERS. KING UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinjw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE042997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/ CAR: WPKELLY: JANET
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: XGDS-1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730323/aaaahibf.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 GEORGETOWN 330
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971113; jms 971113
Subject: PANAMA SC MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, GY, PN, , UN
To: KINGSTON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005